



Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs

Representative Rena Moran, Chair
House Health and Human Services Policy Committee
April 21st, 2020

Dear Chair Moran

On behalf of our community mental health centers and programs, the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) is lending our support of HF 3104 as amended.

In particular, we thank you for the inclusion of the following proposals:

- PRTF modifications
- Children's mental health respite grants eligibility modification
- Civil commitment updates

We look forward to working with the Committee on amendments for the potential future inclusion of proposals.

*In addition to our wish to thank you and the Committee for the policy proposals, we are urging the Minnesota legislature to continue **regulatory flexibility** to sustain critical mental and behavioral health services. This state of emergency comes at a time when our safety net mental health services system is truly on the brink of collapse. Our providers are continuing to provide services through alternative modes to keep them open to our clients.*

This all comes as our healthcare, county and social services partners are asking community mental health providers to increase capacity for care as the COVID-19 crisis surges mental health crises across communities in coming weeks. Our mental and chemical health providers need to be able to immediately preserve access to services and avoid unnecessary hospitalization, when our hospitals are already so strapped.

In closing, thank you for the work you are doing to support our state's community-based providers, especially during this time of emergency.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jin Lee Palen".

Jin Lee Palen, Executive Director

As MACMHP, **we believe** access to high-quality mental and chemical health services is vital to realizing whole health and well-being for all Minnesotans. **Our purpose** is to lead the transformation of the healthcare system so everyone has access to high-quality, community-based services. In our belief and purpose, MACMHP: **Advocates** for our members and their clients with the legislature, stakeholders, and the public. **Drives Innovation** to create a more equitable and sustainable mental and chemical health system through service delivery and payment reform. **Collaborates** and connects to elevate high quality, whole-person care and to develop innovative care models.